

atomy¹ (ăt'ə-mē) n., pl. -mies. [*< an atom*, respelling of ANATOMY.] *Archaic.* A gaunt person or a skeleton.

a-to-nal (ă-tō'nal) adj. *Mus.* Having apparently no key or tonality.

— a-to-nal-ly adv. *mus.*

a-to-nal-ism (ă-tō'nal-iz'əm) n. *Mus.* 1. The lack of a tonal center or key as a principle or musical composition. 2. The theory of atonal composition.

a-to-nal-ity (ă-tō'nal-ĭ-tē) n. A style of musical composition in which tonal center or key is disregarded.

at once adv. 1. At one time: SIMULTANEOUSLY. 2. Immediately <left at once when we heard the news>.

a-tone (ă-tōn') v. a-toned, a-ton-ing, a-ton-es. [ME atonea, to be reconciled < *at one*, in agreement: *at*, *at + one*, one.] — vi. 1. To make amends, as for a fault or sin. 2. *Archaic.* To agree. — vt. *Archaic.* 1. To expiate. 2. To reconcile or harmonize. 3. To conciliate: APPEASE. — a-ton'a-ble, a-tone'a-ble adj. — a-ton'er n.

▲ *word history:* The derivation of *atone*, from *at* and *one*, has been obscured somewhat by the fairly recent change in the pronunciation of *one*. Once used to be pronounced like *own*, but since the 17th century it has been pronounced like *won*, the past tense of *win*. The older pronunciation survives in *alone*, *lonely*, and *only*, in addition to *atone* and its derivatives; the new pronunciation occurs in *once*.

a-tone-ment (ă-tōn'mēnt) n. 1. Amendments made for an injury or wrong: EXPIATION. 2. In the Hebrew Scriptures man's reconciliation with God after having transgressed the covenant. 3. *Archaic.* Reconciliation.

a-ton-i-c (ă-tōn'ik) adj. [Fr. atonique < Gk. atōpos. — see ATONY.] 1. Not accented, as words and syllables. 2. *Pathol.* Relating to, caused by, or marked by atony. — a. An unaccented word, syllable, or sound.

— a-ton'i-ci-ty (ă-tōn'ik-tē) n. *atōnia* (ă-tōnē) n. [LLat. atonia < Gk. < atōnos; slack: *a-*, without + *tonos*, stretching, tone.] 1. Insufficient muscular tone. 2. Lack of accent or stress in phonetics.

a-top (ă-tōp') adv. On or at the top. — prep. On top of. — a-top' adj.

-ator suff. [ME -atour < OFr. < Lat. -ator: -atus, -ate + -or, -or.] One that acts in a given manner: *radiator*.

-atory suff. [ME < Lat. -atorius: -atus, -ate + -orius, -ory.] 1. a. Of or relating to < *respiratory*. b. Tending to < *amendatory*. 2. One that is connected with < *reformatory*.

ATP (ăt'ĕ-pĕ') n. [A(DENOSINE) T(RI)P(HOSPHATE).] An adenosine-derived nucleotide, $C_{10}H_{16}N_5O_{13}P_3$, that supplies energy to cells through its conversion to ADP.

ATP-ase (ăt'ĕ-pĕ-ăs) n. An enzyme that hydrolyzes ATP.

at-ra-bil-i-ous (ăt'ĕ-bil'ē-əs) also at-ra-bil-i-iar (ăt'ĕ-bil'ē-ĕr) adj. [*< Lat. atrabilis*, black bile, transl. of Gk. melankhōlia. — see MEANCHOLY.] 1. Inclined to melancholy. 2. Ill-tempered: surly. — at-ra-bil'i-ous-ness n.

A-treus (ăt're-əs) n. [Gk.] *Gk. Myth.* A king of Mycenae, father of Agamemnon and Menelaus.

a-tri-a (ă-trē-ă) n. var. pl. of ATRIUM.

a-tri-o-ven-tric-u-lar (ă-trē-ō-vēn-trik'ü-lär) adj. Of or relating to the atria and the ventricles of the heart.

a-trip (ă-trip') adj. & adv. Just clear of the bottom, as an anchor.

a-tri-um (ă-trē-əm) n., pl. a-tri-ia (ă-trē-ă) or -ums. [Lat. atrium.] 1. a. A central courtyard, as in ancient Roman houses. b. A multistoried central court, as in a hotel, often having a skylight. 2. A bodily cavity or chamber, as in the heart. — a-tri-al adj.

a-trō-cious (ă-trō-shəs) adj. [*< Lat. atroc, atroc'*, cruel.] 1. Extremely evil or cruel: MONSTROUS < an atrocious felony>. 2. Exceptionally bad: ABOMINABLE < atrocious cooking>. <atrocious rudeness>. — a-trō-cious-ly adv. — a-trō-cious-ness n.

a-trō-ci-ty (ă-trōs'-tē) n., pl. -ties. 1. Atrocious condition, quality, or behavior. 2. An atrocious action, situation, or object: OUTRAGE.

a-trō-phy (ăt'ĕ-fĕ) n., pl. -phies. [LLat. atrophia < Gk. < *atrophos*, ill-nourished: *a-*, without + *trophē*, food.] 1. *Pathol.* The emaciation or wasting away of bodily tissues or organs. 2. A diminution or degeneration: < moral atrophy>. — v. -phied, -phy-ing, -phies. — vt. To affect with atrophy. — vi. To waste away: WITHER. — a-trōphic (ă-trōf'ik), a-trō-phous adj.

a-trō-pine (ăt'ĕ-pēn', -pin) also at-ro-pin (-pin) n. [G. Atropin < NLat. Atropa, genus name of belladonna < Gk. atropos, unchangeable.] An extremely poisonous, bitter, crystalline alkaloid, $C_{17}H_{23}NO_3$, derived from belladonna and related plants and used to dilate the pupil of the eye and as an anesthetic and antispasmodic.

At-ro-pos (ăt'ĕ-rō-pōs', -pōs) n. [Gk. < *atropos*, inexorable.] *Gk. Myth.* One of the three Fates.

a-tach (ă-tăch') v. -tached, -tach-ing, -tach-es. [ME attachen < OFr. *attachier*, of Germanic orig.] — vt. 1. To fasten on or affix to: connect or join. 2. To connect as an adjunct or associated part. 3. To add, as a signature. 4. To ascribe or assign < *attached* no importance to the incident>. 5. To bind by personal ties, as of affection or loyalty <very attached to their pets>. 6. To appoint officially. 7. To assign

(personnel) to a military unit on a temporary basis. 8. *Law.* To seize [persons or property] by legal writ. — vi. To adhere. — a-tach/a-ble adj. — a-tach'er/er n.

* syns: ATTACH, AFFIX, CLIP, CONNECT, COUPLE, EASTEN, FIX, MOOR, SECURE. v. core meaning: to join one thing to another: <the hinges to which the door is attached>. *ant:* DETACH.

at-ea-ché (ăt'ĕ-shă) n. [*Fr.* < p.part. of *attachier*, to attach.] One officially assigned to the staff of a diplomatic mission to serve in a given capacity. *2: commercial attaché*

attaché case n. A briefcase resembling a small suitcase, with hinges and flat sides.

at-attach-ment (ă-tăch'mēnt) n. 1. The act of attaching or condition of being attached. 2. Something, as a tie, band, or fastening, that joins one thing to another. 3. A bond of affection or loyalty. 4. A supplementary part: ACCESSORY < a vacuum cleaner with attachments>. 5. *Law:* a. The legal seizure of a person or property. b. The writ ordering an attachment.

at-tack (ă-tăk') v. -tacked, -tack-ing, -tacks. [Fr. attaquer < OFr. < Old attaccare, of Germanic orig.] — vt. 1. To set upon with violent force. 2. To criticize strongly or in a hostile manner. 3. To start work on with purpose and vigor: *attack a backlog of orders*. 4. To begin to affect harmfully. — vi. 1. To launch an attack. — n. 1. The act of attacking: ASSAULT. 2. The occurrence or onset of a disease. 3. The initial movement in a task or undertaking. 4. *Mus.* The way in which a passage or phrase is begun. — at-tack'er n.

* syns: ATTACK, ASSAULT, ASSET, HIT, STRIKE v. core meaning: to set upon with violent force <enemy troops attacking our positions>

at-tain (ă-tān') v. -tained, -tain-ing, -tains. [ME atteignen < OFr. ataindre, to reach to < Lat. attingere: ad. to + tangere, to touch.] — vt. 1. To gain or accomplish by mental or physical effort: *attain an objective*. 2. To arrive at: *attained the mountaintop*. — vi. 1. To succeed in gaining or accomplishing <attained to the presidency>. — at-tain'a-bil'i-ty, at-tain'a-ble-ness n. — at-tain'a-ble adj.

at-tain-dex (ă-tān'dĕks) n. [ME attendre, conviction < OFr. ataindre; to convict, affect. — see ATTAIN.] *Law.* 1. The loss of all civil rights legally consequent to a death sentence or to outlawry, esp. for treason. 2. *Archaic.* Dishonor.

at-tain-ment (ă-tān'mēnt) n. 1. The act of attaining or condition of being attained. 2. Something attained.

at-taint (ă-tānt') vt. -taint-ed, -taint-ing, -taints. [ME at-taynen < OFr. ataint, p.part. of ataindre, to affect. — see ATTAIN.] — *Law.* To condemn by a sentence of attainder. 2. *Archaic.* To disgrace. 3. Obs. To accuse. — n. 1. Attainer. 2. *Archaic.* A disgrace: stigma.

at-tar (ăt'ĕr) n. [Pers. *ātar*, perfumed < Ar. *ātar* pl. of *ātar*, perfume.] A fragrant essential oil or perfume obtained from the petals of flowers, as roses.

at-tempt (ă-tĕmp't) vt. -tempt-ed, -tempt-ing, -tempts. [ME attempten < OFr. attempter < Lat. attemptare: ad. to + temptare, to test.] — vt. 1. To try to do, make, or achieve. 2. *Archaic.* To tempt. 3. *Archaic.* To attack in order to subdue. — n. 1. An effort or try. 2. An attack or assault, as on one's life. — at-tempt'a-ble adj. — at-tempt'er n.

at-tend (ă-tĕnd') v. -tend-ed, -tend-ing, -tends. [ME attenden < OFr. atendre < Lat. attendere, to heed: ad. to + tendere, to stretch.] — vt. 1. To be present at. 2. To accompany as a circumstance or follow as a result: *< The announcement was attended by cheers>*. 3. a. To accompany or wait on as an attendant or servant. b. To take care of (e.g., a patient). 4. To take charge of. 5. To listen to: *HEED*. 6. *Archaic.* To wait for: EXPECT. — vi. 1. To be present. 2. To apply or direct oneself <attended to the difficulty>. 3. To pay attention: *HEED*. 4. To remain ready to serve: *WAIT*. *4. attend upon the queen*. 5. Obs. To delay or wait. — at-tend'er n.

at-ten-dance (ă-tĕn'dĕns) n. 1. The act of attending. 2. Those that attend a function.

at-ten-dant (ă-tĕn'dĕnt) n. 1. One who attends or serves another. 2. One who is present. 3. One that accompanies: CONCOMITANT. — adj. Accompanying or following as a result: *< the flu and attendant miseries>*. — at-tend'ant-ly adv.

at-ten-tion (ă-tĕn'shən) n. [ME attencion < Lat. attentio < *at-tendere*, to heed: — see ATTEND.] 1. Close or careful observation or heed: *mental concentration*. 2. The ability or power to concentrate mentally. 3. Observant consideration: *NOTICE* < Your complaints are come to my attention>. 4. Courtesy or considerate regard, as for others' feelings. 5. attentions. Acts of courtesy, consideration, or gallantry, esp. by a suitor. 6. A military posture, with the body erect, eyes to the front, arms at the sides, and heels together. — Used as a command. — at-ten'tion-al adj.

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attention deficit disorder n. A childhood syndrome characterized by hyperactivity and short attention span.

attention key n. *Computer Sci.* A function key on terminals that interrupts program execution by the central processing unit.